

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cr-00143
Honorable T.S. Ellis, III
Hearing: June 11, 2021
Trial: July 12, 2021

RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPPOSITION

The government's reply to Mr. Sanders's corrected opposition to the government's motion to exclude evidence at trial (ECF No. 385) is based on the government's lay opinion of Mr. Sanders's mental condition and arguments it will attempt to make to the jury, neither of which are relevant to the admissibility of evidence relating to (1) the voluntariness of Mr. Sanders's statements to law enforcement or (2) Mr. Sanders's intent and purpose in engaging in the charged conduct. Finally, the defense has already produced to the government's expert all the material that [REDACTED] has relied on to-date in preparing his forthcoming report (which will be produced to the government no later than June 18, 2021).¹

The defense submits that the government has mischaracterized the defense arguments as they relate to the *right to present* [REDACTED]'s testimony regarding Mr. Sanders's [REDACTED]

¹ As previously explained to the government, [REDACTED] has produced to the government's expert all of his test materials and raw test data, which includes all notes that form the basis of his forthcoming report. [REDACTED] produced that material directly to the government's expert, who is a licensed psychologist, in conformity with [REDACTED]'s ethical and contractual obligations. The defense has not reproduced the Rule 16 material that the government made available and/or produced to the defense, including material that [REDACTED] examined over the course of an entire day at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Any additional notes that [REDACTED] has do not presently form the basis of his forthcoming report and are *Jencks* material that the defense is not obligated to produce at this time.

[REDACTED], and that the government's arguments, if supported by the evidence (which the defendant disputes) are matters for the jury.

1. [REDACTED]'s forthcoming report will further explain how Mr. Sanders's pervasive [REDACTED] and the pressures he faced while subject to interrogation by the FBI "caused him . . . to experience much greater coercion, stress, and cognitive processing deficits than someone [REDACTED]," which resulted in Mr. Sanders being "overwhelmed by the stress of the situation" and "unable to understand . . . the situation, filter his thoughts or words, or control what he said to law enforcement." See ECF No. 343-1 at 1-2. The report will also explain that Mr. Sanders [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and was therefore misled by the agents' insistence that they had found child pornography on the thumb drive. During the interview, the agents tell Mr. Sanders that they found his laptop and an iPad in his room but mention nothing about a thumb drive. Later, when they tell him they also found a thumb drive with child pornography in his room, Mr. Sanders immediately asks to see his Mom or have her in the room as a witness. He also tells the FBI how uncomfortable and nervous they are making him and how scary this is after asking for his Mom. Mr. Sanders also tells the agents that he [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s report will further explain that, rightly or wrongly, Mr. Sanders did not believe [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. And why the agents' characterization of the material on the thumb drive and their insistence that Mr. Sanders was not being honest were unduly

suggestive of what he had to say to end the interview and have the agents leave without taking his and his family's electronic devices, which they all depended on for work. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will further explain how, for example, even though the agents asked Mr.

Sanders about child pornography and his conversations with alleged minors, Mr. Sanders did not understand that [REDACTED]

2. The government asserts as if it were fact that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] initial submissions to this Court (ECF Nos. 282-1, 343-1, and 356-1), and without the benefit of [REDACTED]'s final report, or their own expert's evaluation. The prosecution's uninformed, lay opinions are not only irrelevant, but they are also incorrect. As [REDACTED] has explained, and will further explain in his forthcoming report, Mr. Sanders has [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ECF No. 356-1 at 2.² In some areas, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ECF No. 282-1 at 4.

3. Mr. Sanders is only charged with engaging in online activities. None of the production, receipt, or possession counts include allegations of in-person conduct.³ The relevant inquiry is whether creating a visual depiction was his primary or dominant purpose. The

² While Mr. Sanders was able to graduate from college, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ECF No. 356-1 at 2. [REDACTED] report will explain that while Mr. Sanders believes [REDACTED]

³ Mr. Sanders is also not charged with having an interest in the BDSM and leather culture or buying or owning sex toys or BDSM gear. Nor could he be as that conduct is not illegal.

importance of rare discussions of sex within the chats, or in-person contact with the defendant, are solely matters for the jury.

4. [REDACTED] has produced the notes underlying his forthcoming report. Any notes that were part of his evaluation are included in the test materials he has already provided. Any additional notes he may possess are *Jencks* and the defense is not obligated to produce such notes at this time, particularly because [REDACTED] may not testify.

Therefore, for all the reasons set forth above and in Mr. Sanders's opposition to the government's motion, the government's motion to exclude should be denied and the government's request for a continuance should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS
By Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was served this 11th day of June 2021, on all counsel of record.

/s/ Jonathan Jeffress
Jonathan Jeffress